

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EWWT, CH, PK,
SUBJ: PRC MARITIME AND SHIPPING AGREEMENTS

REF: STATE 284603

1. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE SO FAR TO OBTAIN COPIES OR DETAILS OF ANY PAST PAKISTAN-PRC MARITIME OR SHIPPING AGREEMENT. CONGEN KARACHI WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN THIS AREA AND EMB HAS NOT RECEIVED RESPONSE TO ITS APPROACH LAST MONTH TO FORMIN (AIDE MEMORE WAS LEFT). GIVEN HIGH IMPORTANCE AND SENSITIVITY WHICH GOP ACCORDS TO ITS RELATIONS WITH PRC, WE ARE DOUBTFUL WE WILL BE GIVEN COPY OF ANY AGREEMENT.

2. ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT SURE WHAT KIND OF AGREEMENT PAK-ISTAN MAY HAVE SIGNED WITH PRC IN THE PAST, TWO RECENT PAK NEWS AGENCY ITEMS QUOTED BELOW SUGGEST THAT NO SHIPPING AGREEMENT PER SE HAD HERETOFORE BEEN SIGNED.

3. NEW AGENCY ITEM DATED NOVEMBER 14, 1976 STATES FOLLOWING: QUOTE PAKISTAN AND CHIA ARE EXPECTED TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT SHORTLY ON COOPERATION IN SHIPPING. A TWO-MEMBER DELEGATION OF PAKISTAN SHIPPING CORPORATION HEADED BY ITS CHAIRMAN, MR. SAEED AHMAD, IS LEAVING KARACHI FOR PEKING ON SUNDAY (NOVEMBER 14) TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CHINESE OFFICIALS AND SIGN THE AGREEMENT.

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THE PSC CHIEF WAS HOPEFUL OF SIGNING AN AGREEMENT WITH

CHINA IN ORDER TO OBTAIN 'PREFERENTIAL SUPPORT FOR OUR SHIPS' AND MANY OTHER MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED, HE ADDED. UNQUOTE.

4. NEWS AGENCY ITEM DATED NOVEMBER 21, 1976 STATES FOLLOWING: QUOTE A 'DEFINITE UNDERSTANDING' ON COOPERATION IN SHIPPING HAS BEEN REACHED BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA, SAEED AHMAD, CHAIRMAN, PAKISTAN SHIPPING CORPORATION SAID IN KARACHI YESTERDAY. SAEED AHMAD, WHO RETURNED HERE ON FRIDAY NIGHT FROM PEKING AFTER LEADING A TWO-MEMBER DELEGATION, SAID THAT CHINA HAD AGREED TO PERMIT INCREASED PARTICIPATION OF PAKISTAN SHIPPING CORPORATION (PSC) VESSELS FOR LIFTING CHINESE CARGO FROM HONG KONG AND CHINESE PORTS. IN AN INTERVIEW, HE SAID THAT THE CHINESE INTEGRATED SHIPPING AGENCIES HAD ISSUED CARTE BLANC INSTRUCTIONS TO THEIR HONG KONG AGENCY FRANCO FOR PROVIDING PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO PSC'S VESSELS FROM THE LAST WEEK OF NEXT MONTH. SAEED AHMAD SAID THAT DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS A MECHANISM WAS EVOLVED FOR A FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH PSC COULD OBTAIN LOADING RIGHTS. HE SAID THAT WITHIN TWO DAYS OF THEIR NEGOTIATIONS, CHINESE AGENCIES HAD TAKEN UP THE FOLLOWING ACTION. TO A QUESTION, HE SAID THAT PSC COULD PLACE ONE SHIP IN A MONTH FOR FAR EASTERN SERVICE. TO ANOTHER QUESTION, SAEED AHMAD SAID THAT THEY HAD PRELIMINARY TALKS ON COOPERATION IN SHIPPING BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND CHINA. THE CHAIRMAN SAID THAT CHINA HAD UNDERTAKEN A BIG SHIPPING EXPANSION PROGRAM FOR ACQUIRING THREE TO FOUR HUNDRED MORE SHIPS. SAEED AHMAD SAID THAT THEIR TALKS DURING FOUR-DAY STAY IN PEKING WERE CONFINED MAINLY TO SEEKING PREFERENTIAL SUPPORT AND COOPERATION OF THE CHINESE SHIPPING AGENCIES AND HAD RETURNED FULLY SATISFIED. UNQUOTE
BYROADE

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